

REMARKS

Claims 8-12 and 17-28 are now in this application.

Claims 8 and 9 have been modified so as to eliminate the examiner's objections raised in the 35 USC 112 rejection. A few additional revisions have been made to claim 8 which additional revisions should also make the claim clearer.

Additionally, claim 17 has been revised so as to eliminate the alternative language so that claim 17 now only recites that the spring plate includes a groove.

New claim 28 has been added which recites the other option which was eliminated from claim 17, namely that the shutoff sleeve forms a guide collar.

This change to claim 17 along with the addition of new claim 28 should make the claims easier to interpret.

In the Office action, the examiner rejected claims 8-27 as unpatentable over Ueda et al, US 4,714,089, in view of Boehm et al, US 2002/0134355. These references teach structure which is similar to the structure recited in most of the claims, however, these references do not teach all of the structure which is recited in claim 8 and others of the claims.

Most notably, claim 8 recites that the shutoff sleeve (51) is positioned at least partially in the inner chamber (26). But neither of the references, neither Ueda et al nor Boehm et al, have such a sleeve positioned within an inner chamber of the valve piston.

In Ueda et al the valve piston 17 does have an inner chamber. But no portion of any shutoff sleeve is located within this inner chamber. And further, applicants believe there is

no reason why a person skilled in the art would consider modifying Ueda et al to include having the shut off sleeve within the inner chamber. In fact, the very structure of Ueda et al would preclude such a modification.

In Ueda et al a spring holder 34 slides within the spool 17, or effectively within an inner chamber. But this spring holder 34 precludes any portion of shutoff sleeve 36 from entering any portion of spool 17. Thus Ueda et al does not have, nor does it in any way teach, the structure as recited in claim 8. And removing the spring holder 34 of Ueda et al so that the shutoff sleeve 36 could enter the inner chamber of the spool 17 would lead to the structure being inoperative, as there would be nothing left to hold springs 37 and 38 in place.

Moreover, with the spring holder 34 being positioned as it is in Ueda et al, and being positioned there so as to hold springs 37 and 38 in place, it would entirely destroy the operation of Ueda et al to try to make the shut off sleeve of Ueda et al fit within the inside of spool 17. Even trying to make a partial fit of shut off sleeve 36 within the inside of spool 17 would make Ueda et al inoperable.

And Boehm et al have nothing to teach in regard to overcoming this shortcoming of Ueda et al as a reference against the present claims. In particular, Boehm et al have a sleeve 23 which slides up and down, opening and closing the inlet openings 32, 33. But Boehm et al have no inner chamber, and also no shutoff sleeve as recited in applicants' claim 8. Thus it is clear that Boehm et al cannot fill this deficiency of Ueda et al as a reference against the claims of this application.

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Claims 17-21 recite still further structure which is not taught by either reference. In particular, these claims recite a groove in the spring plate. Neither Ueda et al nor Boehm et al teach such a groove located as recited in claims 17-21. Thus clearly, wherein claim 8 already recites structure which is not taught or made obvious by the cited references, claims 17-21 add even further structure which is not shown or made obvious by these references.

New claim 28 recites the details which have been eliminated from claim 17, that is, the sleeve 51 and its relationship with spring 27 and bore 24. It is clear that this structure also is not shown or made obvious by the applied references. Neither reference has a sleeve positioned within the valve bore which forms a guide collar, and thereby maintains a spring between the guide collar and the valve bore.

For all of the above reasons, whether taken singly or in combination with each other, entry of this amendment and allowance of the claims are courteously solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Ron Greigg', followed by a long horizontal line.

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